

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Date: 4/25/21

Contact Information

Organization Name: Parkesburg POINT
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Year Incorporated: 2003
FEIN: 03-0399261

ED/CEO Name: Dwayne Walton
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Board Chair Name: Larry Beaver
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Sarah Daniels
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Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture & Humanities Environment/Animal Welfare Education
 Health Human Services Religion

Mission: The Parkesburg POINT's (The POINT) mission is to empower youth and families to live victoriously by offering a safe, engaging and Spirit-filled environment.

Geographic Area Served: The Greater Parkesburg and Coatesville Communities (Western Chester County).

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: The POINT serves over 400 youth ages 8- 18 annually. POINT students primarily come from the Octorara School District; however, 20% of students travel from Coatesville Area School District. Most POINT students come from single-parent households, 90% of which fall below the poverty level and many of whom have experienced homelessness, transient housing conditions, mental or physical abuse, hunger, are struggling or failing academically and have parents addicted to drugs/alcohol.

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| Annual Budget \$ <u>1,178,232</u> | <u>4FT/9PT</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff |
| <u>63.6%</u> of budget for program expenses | <u>13</u> # of Board Volunteers |
| <u>10.9%</u> of budget for administrative expenses | <u>274</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers |
| <u>25.5%</u> of budget for fundraising expenses | <u>7,500</u> # of Volunteer Hours |
| <small>100 % total</small> | |

Top 3-5 funding sources: W.W. Smith Charitable Trust, Baby Essentials LLC, Connelly Foundation, Nelson Foundation, Chester County Fund for Women and Girls.

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building or General Operating ?

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

Mission, Vision & Strategy Governance & Leadership Partnerships & Collaborations
 Fundraising, Development & Marketing Technology Other: _____

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$1,000 - \$5,000

Proposal Summary: The POINT respectfully requests general operating support. Operating support allows us to remain flexible and to direct money to wherever it is needed most.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

1. Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness

The POINT was collaboratively founded in 2003 by local businesses, churches, and community leaders in the Borough of Parkesburg. Since its founding, The POINT has developed innovative strategies to address spiritual, physical, emotional and academic needs for an ever-increasing number of youth and has developed a reputation for excellence within the Greater Western Chester County community.

After 10 years of renting a small warehouse, The POINT launched a capital campaign in 2011-2013 which resulted in the purchase of a 4.25-acre property in Parkesburg. The property now hosts a 22,000 sq./ft. community center with a full gymnasium, cafeteria, e-gaming center, ninja warrior obstacle course, commercial kitchen, student chapel, boxing gym, trade- skills workshop, academic classrooms and our community's local food cupboard. Most recently, The POINT completed the addition of an outdoor skatepark and basketball court .

Today, The POINT is open free of charge 5-6 afternoon/evenings a week and reaches over 1,000 youth through community outreach (bookbag drive, meals, motivational speaking) and directly serves over 400 youth through our core after school and evening programs. With the help of over 275 volunteers and 20+ local churches, our program holistically addresses the physical, academic, emotional and spiritual needs of our community's most vulnerable youth. Each of our programs are designed around the following goals:

- 1) Provide access to a safe and supportive environment.
- 2) Empower students to develop leadership skills, confidence and a positive identity.
- 3) Encourage students to stay in school & set goals for post-secondary education/employment.
- 4) Create access to activities, education and resources that promote a healthy lifestyle.
- 5) Foster student's spiritual exploration and development.

We are pleased to report that in our most recent survey of core students, 98% of students said they feel safe, supported and cared for at The POINT, 74% said they feel more motivated academically, 64% improved literacy skills and 80% plan to enroll in college or a tech school post-high school. Additionally, 89% feel more confident, 86% improved self-esteem, and 63% made new friends. And finally, 55% of students are getting in trouble less, over 91% said The POINT helps them avoid alcohol and drugs and 83% said it helps them avoid skipping/dropping out of school.

2. Funding request

• Description of key initiatives

The POINT's After School Program is available to students Monday – Thursday from 3-6:30PM during the school year and continues in a modified format during the summer. Students in grades 7th-12th can attend M/W and students in grades 3rd – 6th can attend T/Th. The following are our key initiatives:

Academic Enrichment: The POINT connects students to the support and resources needed to stay in school, improve grades, graduate on time and set goals for post-secondary education.

Health & Nutrition: The POINT provides dinner daily at 6PM and both lunch and dinner during the summer. Every month 20+ local churches “adopt-a-night” and cook and serve dinner 1-2x a month for students. The POINT also provides food donations and grocery gift cards for families in need. Food insecurity has significantly increased among our students and families due to COVID-19.

Sports & Recreation: The POINT has a gymnasium, ninja warrior course, e-sports room, boxing gym and outdoor skate park and basketball court. Sports and Recreation are very popular with our students, so we use it as an incentive through both formal and informal activities to keep students motivated and engaged academically. Every student receives at least 30 minutes of recreation daily.

Boys and Girls Program: The Programs are held monthly on Friday or Saturday and provide students with inspirational teachings, mentoring, and structured activities designed to instill values of faith, hard work, integrity, service and leadership. Our Guys' Night averages 30-40 guys and our Girls' Night averages 80-100+ girls.

Art Program: The impacts of COVID-19 have been detrimental for our students, most have spent extensive periods of time in overcrowded, chaotic, abusive and food-insecure homes. Through both formal and informal activities, The POINT is utilizing art to provide safe and comfortable outlets for youth to explore, process and communicate their emotions.

Spiritual Development: The POINT provides voluntary Bible studies for students, year round. During the summer months, students also have opportunities to attend mission trips where they are empowered to serve and give back to others.

Counseling: The POINT partners with licensed therapists to provide free onsite counseling at The POINT for students in need.

Hands-On-Training: Hands-On-Training teaches students how to do basic home plumbing, electrical work, fix drywall, bike repair, car maintenance, and other important skills. This exposure empowers students to take advantage of the Vo-tech programs offered in their school and also helps to develop competencies, increase confidence, and cultivate career opportunities for students.

Success Club: The POINT provides a weekly club at Octorara High School for up to 30 students that the district identifies as the most "at-risk". The club is 10 weeks and is guided by Rescue Generation's curriculum. It is an excellent opportunity to, "bring The POINT to the school" and serve youth who do not have access to The POINT due to transportation, behavioral issues, family needs etc. The Success Club focuses on helping youth to re-think success, address trauma, set goals and take advantage of opportunities at school and in the community.

Crisis & Compassion: The POINT maintains a fund to financially support our students and their families in times of crisis (POINT staff work with The Parkesburg Churches Community Outreach Director to verify need and already received resources). Financial support has included assistance with food, utilities, clothing, bedding, rental assistance, funeral expenses, counseling fees and drug/alcohol rehab admission fees. The foundation of our support is to reduce repetitive traumas and maintain as much stability and security as we can for our students. This fund was increasingly needed in 2020 due to the detrimental impacts of COVID-19 on our students and their families (job losses, addiction relapses, homelessness, food insecurity, etc.) and the needs remain in 2021 as the impacts of COVID-19 are still just unfolding.

Timeline

The POINT's Programs are ongoing throughout the year.

• Specific needs & issues to be addressed

Chester County is one of the country's most affluent regions; however, it is not immune to the debilitating, overwhelming effects of poverty. Most POINT students come from single-parent households, 90% of which fall below the poverty level and many of whom have experienced homelessness, transient housing conditions, mental or physical abuse, hunger, and are struggling or failing academically. The POINT provides our programs free of charge between 3-6:30PM because, "the hours between 3PM and 6PM are the peak hours for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and sex...(and)...teens who do not participate in afterschool programs are nearly three times more likely to skip classes than teens who do participate" (After School Alliance).

The lack of safety and overall sense of "fear" in Coatesville has influenced nearly 20% of our students now traveling from Coatesville in pursuit of a safe-haven at The POINT. In a recent report of Chester County youth, 41.2% of youth have experimented with alcohol, 16% with marijuana, and 5.2% of youth have been involved with a gang (a rise from 4% in 2013). Additionally, in Octorara School District the graduation rate is 86%, 72% for economically disadvantaged youth. In Coatesville Area School District, the graduation rate is 78%, 73.06% for economically disadvantaged youth. The POINT primarily serves economically disadvantaged and minority youth; 40% of our students are African American, 20% Mixed Race, 10% Latino and 30% Caucasian. The POINT helps bridge the gap for these students, making high school graduation and post-secondary education obtainable.

• Why it is important to fund this now

There are over 400 students currently being served by The POINT, the majority of whom bring complex issues of homelessness, poverty, abuse, hunger and/or illiteracy. Financial support of The POINT is critical to ensure we can continue to meet the preventative and interventional needs of our community; ensuring every child who walks through our door has access to the support and resources needed to reach his/her potential.

Our request comes at a heightened time of need as COVID-19 has widened academic gaps and had detrimental impacts on our students physical, social, mental and spiritual health. POINT students spent the majority of 2020 in overcrowded, chaotic, abusive and food-insecure homes. Research supports that children from poor households, “experienced the greatest financial and education loss...” (Save the Children, 2021). Additionally, the CDC states that, “many young adults social, emotional and mental well-being has been impacted by the pandemic.”

Now more than ever, POINT students need the safety and stability of our facility and programs, the caring support of our staff and most importantly, they need to be reminded that even in the hardest of times, there is still hope. Operating support allows us to remain flexible and ensure the complex needs of our community are met.

• **How impact & results will be demonstrated**

The POINT administers post program surveys and works with the schools to track student’s academic performance and graduation rates. Information collected is used to measure the program’s success and to continuously refine and improve our services. Students served by The POINT will demonstrate the following outcomes:

- Students will report feeling safe and supported at The POINT.
- Students will indicate resistance to risky behaviors including gangs, sex, drugs, and alcohol.
- Students will not skip or drop out of school.
- Students will set goals for post-secondary education and/or employment.
- Students will improve literacy.
- Students will increase grades and/or maintain positive grades.
- Students will report an increase in self-esteem and confidence.
- Students will strengthen leadership skills.
- Students will develop an increased interest in serving others.

Impact is also demonstrated through students like “R”. For students like “R”, they arrive at The POINT hungry and hunger has a direct impact on their capacity to thrive physically, academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. “R” is 12 years old and started coming to The POINT in May 2019. “R” actively participates in our Academic Enrichment, Bible Study, Girls’ Night, Recreation and Dinner Program. We noticed early on that “R” was especially here for dinner, and enjoyed every meal given to her, frequently asking for seconds and bringing leftovers home. These are signs we frequently see at The POINT, signs that clue us in to greater needs at home. “R” always asks to be dropped off last and we discovered she was waiting for her mom to get home from work. “R’s” father is incarcerated and her mother struggles to make ends meet. One evening during prayer, “R” mentioned some of her mother’s needs, including rental assistance. Thanks to The POINT’s Crisis and Compassion Fund, we were able to assist with this need to ensure stability and reduce food insecurity for “R” and her family.

III. ATTACHMENTS

E-mail or mail this support information

1. Copy of 501 (c) (3) federal tax-exempt letter
2. List of Board of Directors, with their affiliations
3. Most recent annual report & financial statement, audited if available
4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date
5. If capacity building initiative, itemized budget (including external consultant’s proposal, if applicable)
6. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why.